

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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NEWS ITEMS, NOTICES AND REPORTS MUST BE SENT TO THE OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENING OF EACH WEEK, IF THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN THE CURRENT NUMBER.

TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

At the primary meeting on Wednesday evening, the basis of representation will be the Republican vote at the last gubernatorial election. One delegate is allowed for each hundred votes, and an additional delegate for a fraction of one hundred exceeding fifty.

THE Republican County Committee have called the primary meetings for the election of delegates to the Assembly Convention, for Monday evening, October 22, at 8 P. M. The Bloomfield primary will be held in Wilde's Hall. A member of the County Republican Committee is also to be elected in place of Mr. Walter A. Freeman, whose term of office expires. We urge our voters to make every effort to be present, as the success of the party in Bloomfield is greatly dependent upon the esteem in which the men are held who are to manage the campaign.

On Monday Judge Depue denied the motion for a new trial for John Chisholm, and then sentenced the prisoner to be hanged at Newark on November 23. The judge commended the verdict of the jury, and said that any other conclusion would have been to defeat justice. He also warned Chisholm not to expect any reversal of the decision of the Essex Courts, and not to look for mercy from the Court of Pardons, but to spend the few weeks now remaining to him in preparation for the inevitable consequences of his crime. Very rarely within the State of New Jersey has a murderer, who has been sentenced to death, escaped with his life. New trials have resulted in renewed convictions, and the Court of Pardons has refused to interfere.

THE editors of THE CITIZEN are all Republicans, and a very large proportion of its subscribers and stockholders are also Republicans. Under these circumstances, we think it would be neither expected nor desired that we should refrain from expressing our opinions on political matters of great interest to all persons. Still less would it be expected that we should express an opinion contrary to our individual belief, and yet we do not forget that we number among our warmest friends and subscribers not a few who are devoted to the principles of the Democratic party. If any Democrat would like space in our columns to express his views upon political matters, we shall be glad to receive and publish any candid article from that side of the house, only requiring the name of the writer as an evidence of good faith and sincerity.

MEDICAL MISSIONS.

We omitted, inadvertently, in our issue of Oct. 7th, a reference to the brief address of Dr. Edward Stubbert, of Bloomfield, before the Presbytery of Newark. It has an interest, apart from its connection with a religious gathering, which makes it a proper theme for editorial comment.

According to Dr. Stubbert, the medical missionary is an important factor in modern missions. He is himself such a medical missionary at Ning-po, in Central China, under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. And he says that the medical man, while he finds many doors open to his influence, is very much hampered if he cannot, in some manner, control his patients' after they leave him. A hospital in connection with this work he regards as a prime necessity, and it is his observation that without such care as the hospital enables the physician to give to his patients, they are lost both to him and to the Christian religion.

This is not, apparently, the theory on which the organization which operates the mission at which Dr. Stubbert is stationed, proposes to act. The home authorities do not perceive any particular necessity for a hospital at all. They consider that a medical man, tied down to a hospital, becomes useless for intimation and for religious work.

It is difficult to see why the work of medical missionaries is not about as near the old time style of Christianity as anything that can be named. To "heal the sick" occupied a large share of the attention of the first Christians, and one would think it might be reasonable to say the least of it—to get at men's souls by doing good to their bodies. Either there ought to be no medical missionaries at all, or else these men and women should be provided with the equipment, which would make their duties likely to be successful. It would appear that it was better not to do a thing than to do it by halves, or in such a manner as to make it a predestined failure. That would certainly be carrying the doctrine of dependence upon God to overcome human mistakes, to a most pronounced extent.

We speak simply from the side of business prudence when we say, that while civilization and missions are so closely connected, it is decidedly unwise to merely play at medicine, and so run the risks of failure, and of prejudice, and of greater obstacles to improvement of every kind.

The time will probably come when there will be a new sort of missionary to what there has been. Like the African explorer, who has himself looked to, physically, in every way, before he starts, and who is careful to fortify himself even against an unfilled tooth and a threatening bunion, this missionary will be armed and equipped in every shape. He will have no less zeal than before, but he will be a man who has received a medical and a mechanical training. He will be after the pattern of David Livingstone. And it will be greatly to the advantage of the organizations which are pushing these pioneers forward, if they shall more and more intelligently prepare their men and women at home, and then support them in their special work in the field.

And if it be replied that this would be done now if there were more money, we beg to doubt it; since observation shows that the missionaries on the field are very much more aggressive than the societies at home. But it appears difficult for money to be appropriated where they think it ought to go; and easy enough to find it for what they, in practical work, do not regard as absolutely necessary.

OUR CIRCULATION.

A notable fact is revealed by the subscription list of THE CITIZEN. It is of good size and growing steadily, but we find names we could hardly have expected to see; and we miss names that we certainly ought to have. In the mean while the number of papers purchased at the railroad and in the post office constantly increases, and we have gratifying information of the approval which the paper meets elsewhere. It is being more and more appreciated in the vicinity, and it receives both quotation and encouragement from abroad.

All this is in the usual experience of a new journal, and for all this we were prepared. But we were not at all prepared for another fact which we have recently gained by means of a carefully conducted inquiry. The Board of Editors might have been seen in the sanctum, staring at each other in blank amazement, when it was demonstrated. There is not much which ordinarily astonishes an editor. And it is this familiarity with the strange and the unutterable, which makes our present surprise all the more singular.

What we did learn was this: That every body in Bloomfield reads THE CITIZEN. But how do they read it? Aye, there's the rub! We have information from the most hotly contested precincts and with nearly all the polling-places well tallied. And what do you think? Why, THE CITIZEN circulates from week's end to week's end.

Comes me the father of the family, of a Saturday morning, and for five cents current nickel, of the realm of Arthur the Magnificent, procures me the paper, and said, in which he delighteth himself even unto New York. Mutters to himself as he turneth him to depart in the eventide, words such as these: "Where's that CITIZEN? Bill, have you got through reading it? Tom, did you take that Bloomfield paper of mine? Oh, here it is! Lucky I found it, or the old lady would have attended to my case." And thereupon places his mortal limbs in peril on a Barclay Street last-heat, go-as-you-please ferry-boat. After which followeth the dim, mysterious, enigmatic radiance of the principal illuminator employed by the D. L. & W. R. R., which is never turned high enough, and which never illuminates at all, unless a breath of sulphurous brakeman is wafted through the car; and which, after it is lighted, never lights anything else.

Now, THE CITIZEN becomes the Saturday evening property of that peaceful family. It cheers but does not inebriate. It is funny enough without being too funny. It never tries to do it when it can't, so it always does it when it tries to. And thus it is considered a fine substitute for the former objectionable, glib, about gossip which used to prevail. Its religion is orthodox; and its morals are sound; and its literature is bright; and its "Ballots" are for the elect; and its politics are decent; and it hands all would-be punsters over to the custody of one "Gasbag" for a horrible example, that they may see how it is to be done when it is done, and that they may not, in only an amateur way (where he is a professional), try to do it any more.

But now THE CITIZEN begins its journey. From the moment that everybody

in the Spilkins family has read it, everybody among the Whifflees next door wants to borrow it. Authentic information assures us of a single CITIZEN patrolling at least three families, with five people in each family—visitors and domestics not counted. It grieves us to hear that tramps are occasionally permitted to read it, in order to take the edge from a bit of cold-mutton, or a bread-crust with a coffee-grounds accompaniment. It ought not to be necessary to propitiate the savage breast in this manner.

It grieves us furthermore to find that even good rag paper will not stand more than about twenty-five patient thumbings without showing signs of wear. If it were not for our design to extend our subscription list, we should certainly get up an edition on cardboard at once.

This, then, is the class of facts which surprised the Editors out of their equanimity. Could such things be, and overcome us like a summer cloud, without our special wonder? Nay, truly, for our investigations show us—as we said before—that everybody either takes, reads, sees, or hears from THE CITIZEN every week. We are compelled to print a larger edition, and constantly to advance our facilities of distribution to meet the demand. But in spite of it all, there are about six or seven times too many athletic readers encamped upon each copy of THE CITIZEN. Our back is good, but our legs may not stand it, and we would like to see more accommodations, and fewer people sitting on each other's laps. What with grown-ups and half-rates and nondescripts, we think that nobody had better overload his pew. It is not proper to "crowd the mourners" so recklessly.

"Any good shooting on your farm?" asked a hunter of a farmer. "Splendid," replied the agriculturist; "there's a dry-well man down in the clover meadow, a cloth peddler at the house, a candidate out in the barn, and two tramps down in the stock yard. Climb right over the fence, young man, load both barrels, and sail in."—*Toledo Blade.*

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